



J. TYLER McCaULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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February 9, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

**SUBJECT: GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – YOUTH BEACON
AND YOUTH BEACON II GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Youth Beacon and Youth Beacon II Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Youth Beacon, Incorporated. The Group Homes contract with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Youth Beacon Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 14-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Youth Beacon Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children. Youth Beacon II Group Home was providing services for one DCFS child and three privately placed children.

Youth Beacon Group Home is located in the Second District. Youth Beacon II Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.

Youth Beacon needs to maintain current Needs and Services Plans; teach children daily living, self-help and survival skills; and provide children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs.

Youth Beacon II needs to replace the dining room furniture and paint the dining room ceiling; remove broken furniture and television sets from the living room; clean or replace the carpet in the children's bedrooms; replace children's pillows; include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; and maintain current documentation to show that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:asl

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Linda Watson, Executive Director, Youth Beacon
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Youth Beacon Group Home
6220 Acacia Street
Los Angeles, California 90056
Phone: (323) 292-5019
License Number: 198202735
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Youth Beacon Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Group Home does not maintain Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) in the case files for the children.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

1. Youth Beacon management maintain current Needs and Services Plans in the case files.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school.

The Group Home's program does not include the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills. Age-appropriate children are not provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs.

Recommendations

2. Youth Beacon management:
 - a. Teach children daily living, self-help, and survival skills.
 - b. Provide children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs as appropriate.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Documentation confirms that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, three children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications they are taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

- 3. Youth Beacon management obtain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Youth Beacon II Group Home
15960 Rayen Street
North Hills, California 91343
Phone: (818) 773-8939
License Number: 197603180
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Youth Beacon II Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is not well maintained and does not provide a home-like environment. In the dining room, the furniture is scratched, a folding office table is being used for the dining room table, and the ceiling is stained. There are several pieces of broken furniture and television sets in the living room. There is adequate lighting in the Group Home.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, the carpet in the bedrooms is dirty. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens; however, the pillows are worn and flat. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Youth Beacon management:

- a. Replace the furniture in the dining room.**
- b. Paint the ceiling in the dining room.**
- c. Remove broken furniture and television sets from the living room.**

d. Clean or replace the carpet in the children's bedrooms.

e. Replace children's bed pillows.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals. However, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs.

Case file reflects adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

2. Youth Beacon management include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

The child taking psychotropic medications does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medications he is taking. There is no documentation that the child taking psychotropic medications is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

The child is informed about his psychotropic medications and is aware of his right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

3. Youth Beacon management:

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for the child taking psychotropic medications.**

- b. Maintain current documentation to show that the child taking psychotropic medications is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: One

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides the children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo album/life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**YOUTH BACON INC.
6220 ACACIA ST.
LOS ANGELES CA. 90056
(818)773-8939 FAX (818)773-8941**

May 24, 2006

Children's Group Home Ombudsman
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012

ATT: Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor

This document is in response to audit, dated April 21, 2006.

REVISED REPONSE

Youth Beacon Inc. 6220 Acacia St. LA 90056, License # 198202735.

Program Services: Youth Beacon is in the process of replacing lost assessment plans.
Plan of correction: Administrator Linda Watson, will keep copies off all Needs and Services plans in office off site. Administrator will also request from social worker a back up disk to reprint any lost documents. Facility manager Yvonne Tillett, will also keep extra copies of Needs and services at facility. This procedure will apply to both facilities. Administrator, Linda Watson is responsible for all QA.

Education and Emancipation Service: Youth Beacon does have a vigorous, ILS program. Menu planning, rotation of weekly household chores, landscaping, chores that allow them to make extra money, plumbing, appliance repair, painting, clients participate in school programs of community based learning, So. CA. Regional Occupational Center, (SCROC). We also teach: how to fill out a job application and encourage good money management. See Attached certificate, earned by the client that stated he participates in no programs.
No correction needed.

Psychotropic Medication; Correction: YB has contacted Dr. Smith and all needed request have been forwarded to the court. Administrator will make a form to accompany chart to remind of needed updates. Copies will be kept in Administrator's office. Linda Watson is responsible for all QA. Yvonne Tillett is facility manager and will back up QA.

**YOUTH BACON INC.
6220 ACACIA ST.
LOS ANGELES CA. 90056
(818)773-8939 FAX (818)773-8941**

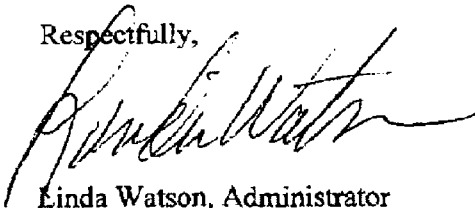
Youth Bacon II, 15960 Rayen St. North Hills, 91343, License # 197603180

Facility and Environment: Correction: Dinning table swapped with other in house, broken furniture removed, extra TV's removed, all carpets cleaned, pillows replaced, and ceiling washed.

Program Services: Team input will be included in future plans: Linda Watson as Administrator with facility manager will provide QA and remind team that a team recommendation is required.

Psychotropic Medication: As stated in YB Inc., YBII will follow same plan. Facility manager, Jessie Cole is backup QA.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Watson", written in a cursive style.

Linda Watson, Administrator